The present invention is related to the following patent applications which are incorporated herein by reference:

Serial Number 10/723503 (~~Attorney Docket No. FR920020046US1~~) entitled "Packet Unstopper System for a Parallel Packet Switch", filed November 26, 2003 ;

Serial Number 10/722900 (~~Attorney Docket No. FR920020049US1~~) entitled "System and Method for Sequencing Data Packets on a Per-Flow Basis", filed November 26, 2003 ;

Serial Number 10/722901 (~~Attorney Docket No. FR920020052US1~~) entitled "Method and System for Resequencing Data Packets Switched Through a Parallel Packet Switch", filed November 26, 2003.

[Page 11, Line 14] In the preferred described PPS implementation, only the unicast traffic is load balanced while multicast packets are sent by each source to their multiple destinations always through at least one pre-assigned switching plane (thus, multicast traffic flows are pre-assigned to specific switching planes e.g., on the basis of groups of destination ports). Hence, there is not the requirement of having to number MC packets at source since the invention preferably assumes that MC flows are always switched through a ~~a~~ the same switching plane which does not introduce any disordering. Contrary to UC packets, MC packets are thus numbered at destination (275), in each egress adapter (260), so as to avoid the problem discussed in the background section on the numbering in sources of traffic with multiple destinations while allowing to implement a single mechanism that works both for UC and MC traffic. This is further discussed hereafter and described in following figures.